

Did you find nectar in the flowers?

When were the flowers observed?

Have you observed birds on the Banksia with spikes on the soil?

Answers could be sent to *W.A. Naturalist*. I would be grateful, if the answer could be accompanied by a twig and some spikes from the Banksias concerned.

The answers will be used for my final publication.

Note: The description of the honey-possum is preliminary, and I am carrying on further investigations.

REFERENCE

MORCOMBE, M. K. 1968. *Australia's Western Wildflowers*. Melbourne.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Oriental Cuckoo at Dampier.—The known distribution of the Oriental Cuckoo, *Cuculus saturatus*, in Western Australia has been documented by Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 1976). The only record so far known south of the Kimberley Division of this non-breeding migrant from Asia was seen in the Pilbara on March 19, 1973.

On the morning of November 28, 1977, an injured Oriental Cuckoo was found in the garden of a Dampier home. The bird was brought to me; however I could find no superficial injuries. Unfortunately the Cuckoo died later that day. Photographs of the dead bird were taken to enable positive identification to be made.

—K. D. PERRY, Dampier.

Co-operative breeding by Red-winged Wrens (*Malurus elegans*).—Four years ago when one of us reviewed the incidence of co-operative breeding in Australian birds (Rowley, *Proc. 16th Int. Ornith. Congr.*) eight species of *Malurus* had been recorded breeding co-operatively (loc. cit., p. 661).

In September, 1977 Pam Chapman found a nest of *Malurus elegans* in Jarrah forest to the south of Mundaring. On 24 September one of us photographed three individuals (2♂♂, 1♀) attending the nest which by now contained nestlings. On 25 September the two males were mist-netted, colour-banded and watched returning to the nest. This is the first record of co-operative breeding by *Malurus elegans*.

—GRAEME CHAPMAN and IAN ROWLEY, CSIRO, Division of Wildlife Research, Helena Valley, W.A.

Adult White-tailed Tropic-bird, *Phaethon lepturus*, at Torbay.—Around mid-day on 14 December 1977 we saw a White-tailed Tropic-bird at close quarters at Torbay on the south coast of Western Australia.

The bird flew over us at a height of about 15 metres, moving east from the high ground and out into the bay. The differences from the Red-tailed Tropic-bird, *P. rubricauda*, were immediately noticed. The central tail feathers were white and much broader, the underwing pattern showed a large dark or black area under the primaries contrasting with the all-white underwing of the Red-tailed Tropic-bird. The bill was light-coloured and the reflection from the sand made it appear horn-coloured. The exposed parts of the feet were very dark.

We were both impressed by its smaller size and more gracile form than the Red-tailed Tropic-bird. Crested Terns nearby provided a frame-of-reference.

We are both familiar with the Red-tailed Tropic-bird in the wild and in captivity.

—C. A. NICHOLLS and T. SPENCE.